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APPLICATION NO. 09/072,397	FILING DATE 05/04/98	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR HELLER	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. A 10393.44.02
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EXAMINER MAUNG, Z

ART UNIT 2758	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/072,397

Applicant(s)

Heller et al.

Examiner

Zarni Maung

Group Art Unit

2758



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 4, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 14-16 and 31-33 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 17-27 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 9-13 and 28-30 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-33 are presented for examination.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3-7, 8, 17, 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being by Hwang et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,577,205 (hereinafter Hwang).

4. Hwang a computer network for connecting a plurality of human interfaces and input/output devices to a plurality of remote computers (see figures 1,3). Hwang discloses the invention as claimed. Taking claim 1 as an exemplary claim, Hwang discloses a computer network comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes, each one of said nodes having a DTE device coupled thereto (see figures 1,3, TEAMPRO CHASSIS) and wherein said DTE device coupled to a first one of said nodes further comprises:

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a computing system located at a first location (see figures 1, 3, TEAMPRO CHASSIS including CPU cards, SCSI cards located at first location, column 8, lines 8-25, column 10, lines 24-58);

a human interface located at a second location, said second location remotely located relative to said first location; a first interface device coupled to said computing system (see figures 2, 3, TEAMMATE terminals 1-3, located at a second location); a second interface device coupled to said human interface; a transmission line coupling said first and second interface devices (see figures 1-3, network connections and TEAM PANELS);

said first interface device converting signals generated by said computing system into a format suitable for transmission to said second interface device and said second interface device converting signals, received from said first interface device into a format suitable for transmission to said human interface (see figures 1-3, network connections and TEAM PANELS between the TEAMMATE terminals 1-3 and TEAMPRO CHASSIS, column 8, line 8 to column 10, line 65).

5. As per claim 3, Hwang discloses the computer network set forth in claim 1 above, wherein said network further comprising a cable for interconnecting said plurality of nodes (see figures 1-3, column 10, lines 35-50).

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6. As per claim 4, Hwang discloses the computer network set forth in above claims, wherein said cable is a thin wire coaxial cable (see figures 1-3, column 10, lines 35-50).

7. As per claim 5, Hwang discloses the computer network set forth in above claims, wherein said computing system further comprises a computer chassis and at least one computing system component housed in said computer chassis and coupled to said first interface device (see figures 1,3, TEAMPRO CHASSIS, column 8, line 8 to column 10, line 65).

8. As per claim 6, Hwang discloses the computer network set forth in above claims, wherein said human interface further comprises a monitor coupled to said second interface device (see figures 2, 3, TEAMMATE terminals 1-3 with monitors).

9. As per claim 7, Hwang discloses the computer network set forth in above claims, wherein said human interface further comprises either a printer, a keyboard, or a mouse coupled to said second interface device (see figures 2, 3, TEAMMATE terminals 1-3, column 6, lines 61-65).

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10. As per claim 8, Hwang discloses a computer network, wherein said network comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes, each one of said nodes having a DTE device coupled thereto (see figures 1,3) and wherein said DTE device coupled to a first one of said nodes further comprises:

a computing system located at a first location (see figures 1, 3, TEAMPRO CHASSIS including CPU cards, SCSI cards located at first location, column 8, lines 8-25, column 10, lines 24-58);

a human interface located at a second location, said second location remotely located relative to said first location, said human interface comprised of a video monitor and at least one input/output device; a first encoder coupled to said computing system; a first decoder coupled to said video monitor and said at least one I/O device (see figures 2, 3, column 8, lines 8-25, column 10, lines 24-58, TEAMMATE terminals 1-3, located at a second location, the TEAMMATE terminals 1-3 connected to monitors and I/O devices, decoder is inherently included in the monitor and I/O interfaces); a transmission line coupling said encoder and said decoder; said first encoder receiving, from said computing system, a video signal to be transmitted to said video monitor and a non-video signal to be transmitted to said at least one I/O device and combining said video and said non-video signals into a first combined signal (see figures 1-3, network connections and TEAM PANELS between the TEAMMATE terminals 1-3 and TEAMPRO CHASSIS, column 8, line 8 to column 10, line 65); said first decoder

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receiving said first combined signal from said first encoder and separating said video and non-video signals therefrom for respective propagation to said video monitor and said at least one I/O device (see figures 1-3, TEAMHUB, network connections and TEAM PANELS between the TEAMMATE terminals 1-3 and TEAMPRO CHASSIS, column 8, line 8 to column 10, line 65, encoder and decoder are inherently included in the interfaces in the CHASSIS and monitors to receive/transfer video and I/O signals).

11. As per claims 17, 22-27, they do not teach or further define over the limitations recited in prior rejected claims 1, 3-8. Therefore, claims 17, 22-27 are also rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 1, 3-8, supra.

12. As per claims 18-20, Hwang discloses the computer network according to claim 17, wherein said computing systems respectively coupled to each one of said at least two nodes are housed together in a common support structure located in a shared computer room, and said common support structure is a computer rack (see figures 1-5, column 9, lines 22 to column 10, line 66).

13. As per claim 21, wherein said second location at which said human interface for said computing system coupled to a first one of said at least two nodes is also remotely located relative to said second location at which said human interface for said

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computing system coupled to a second one of said at least two nodes is located (see figures 1-5, column 9, lines 22 to column 10, line 66).

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.
15. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Hwang et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,577,205 (hereinafter Hwang).
16. As per claim 2, the following remarks are made in addition to those regarding prior rejected claim 1, supra.
17. As per claim 2, Hwang discloses the computer network according to claim 1 above, wherein Hwang does not explicitly show that said transmission line coupling

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said first and second interface devices is a 4-wire cable; however, Hwang suggests that said transmission line can be local area network communications link (see column 8, lines 8-54, column 10, lines 25-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hwang by using a 4-wire cable for the transmission line, because Hwang suggests that the transmission line can be a network communications link (see column 8, lines 8-54, column 10, lines 25-66). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Hwang by including 4-wire cable for the transmission line because doing so would have enabled the TEAMPRO CHASSIS to establish proper communications with the TEAMMATE terminals.

18. Claims 9-13 and 28-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

19. Claims 14-16 and 31-33 are allowable over the prior art of record.

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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(a) Multi-computer access switching system by Lee, U.S. Patent Number 5499377.

(b) Computer with separate display plane and user interface processor by Barrett et al., U.S. Patent Number 5260697.

(c) X terminal number limiting system by Yoneyama, U.S. Patent Number 5734834.

(d) User interface for a remote terminal by Janay et al., U.S. Patent Number 5831608.

(e) Hypertext based remote graphic user interface control system by Huntsman, U.S. Patent Number 5801689.

(f) Interface circuit for supporting PCMCIA cards in an x-terminal by Kim, U.S. Patent Number 5715410.

(g) Peripheral audio/video communication system that interfaces with a host computer and determines format of coded audio/video signals by Clapp et al., U.S. Patent Number 5802281.


21. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire **3 (three) months and 0 (zero) days** from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the applicant (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02, 710.02(b)).

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22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zarni Maung whose telephone number is (703) 308-6687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

April 8, 1999


ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER